

Legal Services Corporation

§ 1624.6

ability of the legal services program to provide its services.

(3) For the purpose of § 1624.4(d) (1) and (2), auxiliary aids include, but are not limited to, brailled and taped material, interpreters, telecommunications equipment for the deaf, and other aids for persons with impaired hearing, speech or vision.

(e) A legal services program shall take reasonable steps to insure that communications with its applicants, employees, and beneficiaries are available to persons with impaired vision and hearing.

(f) A legal services program may not deny handicapped persons the opportunity to participate as members of or in the meetings or activities of any planning or advisory board or process established by or conducted by the legal services program, including but not limited to meetings and activities conducted in response to the requirements of part 1620 of these regulations.

§ 1624.5 Accessibility of legal services.

(a) No qualified handicapped person shall, because a legal services program's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by handicapped persons, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination by any legal services program.

(b) A legal services program shall conduct its programs and activities so that, when viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons. This paragraph does not necessarily require a legal services program to make each of its existing facilities or every part of an existing facility accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, or require a legal services program to make structural changes in existing facilities when other methods are effective in achieving compliance. In choosing among available methods for meeting the requirements of this paragraph, a legal services program shall give priority to those methods that offer legal services to handicapped persons in the most integrated setting appropriate.

(c) A legal services program shall, to the maximum extent feasible, insure that new facilities that it rents or purchases are accessible to handicapped

persons. Prior to entering into any lease or contract for the purchase of a building, a legal services program shall submit a statement to the appropriate Regional Office certifying that the facilities covered by the lease or contract will be accessible to handicapped persons, or if the facilities will not be accessible, a detailed description of the efforts the program made to obtain accessible space, the reasons why the inaccessible facility was nevertheless selected, and the specific steps that will be taken by the legal services program to insure that its services are accessible to handicapped persons who would otherwise use that facility. After a statement certifying facility accessibility has been submitted, additional statements need not be resubmitted with respect to the same facility, unless substantial changes have been made in the facility that affect its accessibility.

(d) A legal services program shall ensure that new facilities designed or constructed for it are readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons. Alterations to existing facilities shall, to the maximum extent feasible, be designed and constructed to make the altered facilities readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons.

§ 1624.6 Employment.

(a) No qualified handicapped person shall, on the basis of handicap, be subjected to discrimination in employment by any legal services program.

(b) A legal services program shall make all decisions concerning employment under any program or activity to which this part applies in a manner that insures that discrimination on the basis of handicap does not occur, and may not limit, segregate, or classify applicants or employees in any way that adversely affects their opportunities or status because of handicap.

(c) The prohibition against discrimination in employment applies to the following activities:

(1) Recruitment, advertising, and the processing of applications for employment;

(2) Hiring, upgrading, promotion, award of tenure, demotion, transfer, layoff, termination, right of return from layoff, and rehiring;